


STERN COLLEGE
for Women

RETROSPECT



FRESHMAN CLASS

June 1957



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In Retrospect

THE THIRD OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE FRESHMEN OF

STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

253 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.



June 1957

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| MESSAGE FROM DR. BELKIN | 3 |
| MESSAGE FROM MR. STERN | 4 |
| SCRAPBOOK OF NEWS EVENTS | 5 |
| ENGLISH LITERARY SECTION | |
| Fear Of The Unknown—Marilyn Singer | 16 |
| Miss Arlene's Recipe Column—Arlene Becker | 18 |
| Pinned On My First Date—Roberta Reiss | 19 |
| The Problem Of Evil In Job—Bessie Kaplan | 20 |
| Terror! Terror!—Roz Berkowitz | 22 |
| The Creation—Miriam Safran | 23 |
| Analysis of Shapiro's "University"—Tyra Kellner | 25 |
| Cain's Choice—Miriam Resnikoff | 26 |
| HEBREW LITERARY SECTION | 27 |
| GREETINGS | 31 |



Dr. Samuel Belkin

June 4, 1957

Message From Dr. Belkin

I am delighted to greet you once again, as Stern College completes its third academic year, marking another important milestone in its young but brilliant history. This is really a significant moment, because now the college stands on the threshold of full maturity. In the Fall, classes will be conducted on every level—freshman to senior—for the first time. The excitement that goes with commencement preparations for June, 1958, will become an integral part of your campus life. The efforts of all of us who have worked on behalf of Stern College will then bear fruit.

The Stern College graduate—a dynamic professional woman whose attitudes and efforts are characterized by the rich and lasting values of both the contemporary culture and Judaism—will begin to make her unique contributions to society.

I now greet you at the end of *your* freshman year, on the road to your own graduation. Like those who followed the pioneers of our country, you are benefitting from the trailblazing experiences of those who went before you. Now it is expected of you to grasp the advantages at hand and to develop yourselves and your college.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer.

Cordially,
SAMUEL BELKIN
President



Mr. Max Stern

June 4, 1957

Message From Max Stern

As Stern College completes its third year, I congratulate you for the commendable manner in which you have assumed your truly unique responsibilities as students of this young institution.

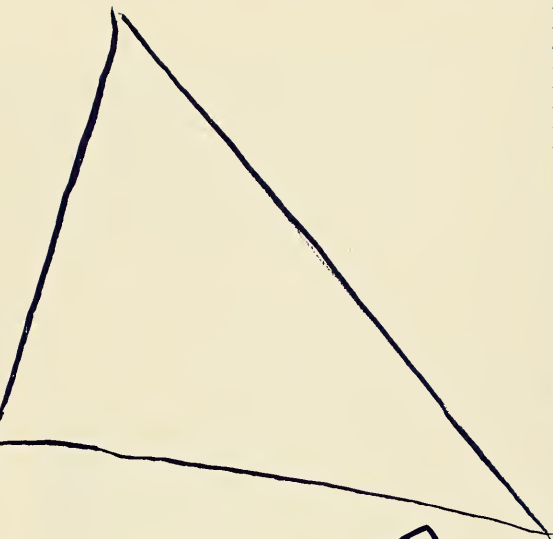
Your college life has been full and gratifying. You are enjoying the benefits of an established student government; undergraduate publications; a variety of academic and social clubs and activities. You are inheriting and creating traditions.

I am confident that you will continue to bring to your pursuits the same zeal and ability which have characterized them this past year. These have been among the college's greatest assets. They have helped elevate the nation's first liberal arts college for women under Jewish auspices to prominence in both higher education and the American Jewish community. They have given substance to the idea that young women have an increasingly more important role to play in the advancement and strengthening of Judaism.

Best wishes for a very happy summer.

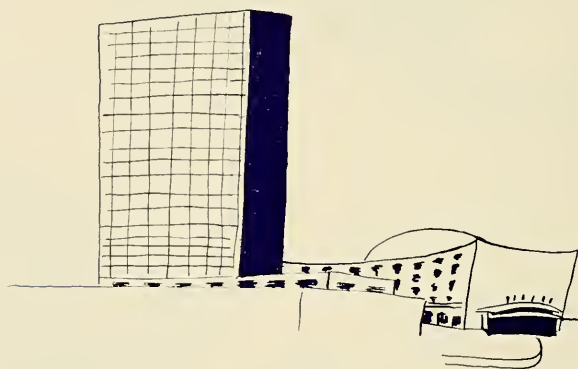
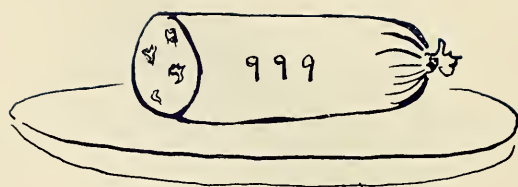
Sincerely,

MAX STERN



ARLENE BECKER

A. B.



U.N.

A visit to the United Nations was the first official act of the 1956-57 Freshman Class. This was indeed appropriate, as members of our class hail from Canada, Israel, Norway, and many different states.

Led by Mrs. Isaacs, we freshmen walked from Stern to the United Nations buildings. There we were split up into smaller groups and taken on tours by attractive guides from Sweden, France, and other member nations.

Each girl received a U.N. pin, a token of this pleasant introduction to the well-rounded college life at Stern.

Welcome Assembly

Following the introduction of the out-of-townners to New York City, we freshmen were greeted by the administration at an assembly held during the first week of school.

The Student Council president, Sura Schreiber '58, welcomed us and informed us of the history of Stern and its objectives.

Then Mrs. Elizabeth Isaacs, Director of Student Activities, and Dr. Dan Vogel, Acting Registrar, extended greetings to us on behalf of the faculty and explained the aspirations and goals of Stern College. Their speeches stressed the importance of a Hebrew and secular college education for us, the future leaders of Judaism.

Next, Mr. Max Stern offered a hardy welcome to the new class. He explained how Stern College has filled the need for a girls' college under Jewish auspices.

Lastly, Dr. Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, delivered a message. In his remarks, Dr. Belkin said that the first class to enter Stern College was imbued with the spirit of hope for the future of Stern. The second class, after seeing the accomplishments of the first, had faith, and the new freshmen, members of the third class, realizing that these ideals are now reality, are filled with confidence. By including the freshmen as members of the school's pioneering body, he made us feel that we were already an integral part of Stern College.

Buffet Dinner

The Freshman Class was guest at a buffet dinner hosted by the Student Council during the first week of school. In an atmosphere of easy informality, freshmen and Student Council members mingled and chatted as they ate. Held in the cafeteria, the buffet was set up lavishly, with cold cuts and all the trimmings, soda, potato chips, and cookies. It was an extremely pleasant introduction to life at Stern for us.

Skating Parties

Our Freshman Class sponsored two skating parties during the year. Since they were held after school on a weekday evening, many of the New York girls stayed at school to eat dinner. Thus, both times, the cafeteria was unusually crowded but this only added to the festivity of the occasion. After dinner we walked to the Hotel Duane to change into skating clothes. Finally, we gathered in the Mezzanine of the hotel. From there we walked as a group to Iceland, the ice-skating rink in Madison Square Garden. Bystanders turned to stare as a long line of girls swinging skates paraded down the street.

Once there, the expert skaters of the class quickly volunteered to help the novices and little couples of a steady skater and a staggering one were seen throughout the rink.

Although no invitations were sent out, our skating parties were well attended by members of the opposite sex.

Chaperones of the affairs were Dr. Louis Feldman, his delightful wife, and Dr. Jean Jofen, who joined us in skating.



ב"ה

*The Undergraduate Association
of Stern College for Women
of Yeshiva University
invites you to attend the
Chanukah Chagiga
on Sunday Evening, November 25th, 1956
from 7:30 to 12:00 o'clock
at the Fraternal Clubhouse, 110 W. 48th St., N. Y.*

*Professional Entertainment
Refreshments*

by invitation only

Freshman Class Elections

On October 10, the new Freshman Class elected Paula Fogel, Audrey Shapiro and Bobbie Rosen as president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer of the class.

The candidates delivered brief campaign messages to the class at an assembly conducted under the auspices of the Student Council.

Paula, a graduate of Beth Jacob High School of the East Side and a native New Yorker, will major in either English or Math. In high school she was active in the Student Council, held positions on the school's various publications, and was also valedictorian of her graduating class.

Chanukah Chagiga

The large ball-room of the Fraternal Clubhouse was filled with merry-makers on December 2, as an unusually large crowd gathered for the annual Chanukah Chagiga of Stern College.

Separate tables, seating eight and twelve, were set up and friends sat down together to munch candies and nuts as we watched the entertainment.

A note of seriousness opened the program as Dr. Menachem Mendel Brayer, a member of the Hebrew faculty, spoke about the significance of Chanukah. Then, in line with the merrier aspects of the holiday, a xylophonist and a popular singer performed. Bobbie Gross '58, played the piano as we joined in with several rousing Chanukah songs.

After the show we drank punch and ate cakes and nuts as we threaded our way through the crowd to visit friends.

In charge of the affair were Renah Mescheloff '58, chairman, and Tyra Kellner '60, co-chairman.

Freshman-Junior Affair

The cool evening of Sunday, December 23, contrasted with the warm spirit within the walls of Stern College as the Freshman Class at Stern established a precedent. The Freshman-Junior Party, an informal gathering between Stern girls and Yeshiva College boys, was the first such inter-class affair held in the history of the schools.

The presidents of the respective classes, Paula Fogel and Moe Berlin, officially opened the evening with a few words of welcome. Rabbi Wohlgelemer, teacher of English, and Mrs. Elizabeth Isaacs, Director of Student Activities, acted as chaperones. Rabbi Wohlgelemer spoke on "symbolism," a topic well-known to the students of both his uptown and downtown classes. The symbolic character of the pink and white balloons and streamers decorating the room was aptly explained by him to an appreciative audience.

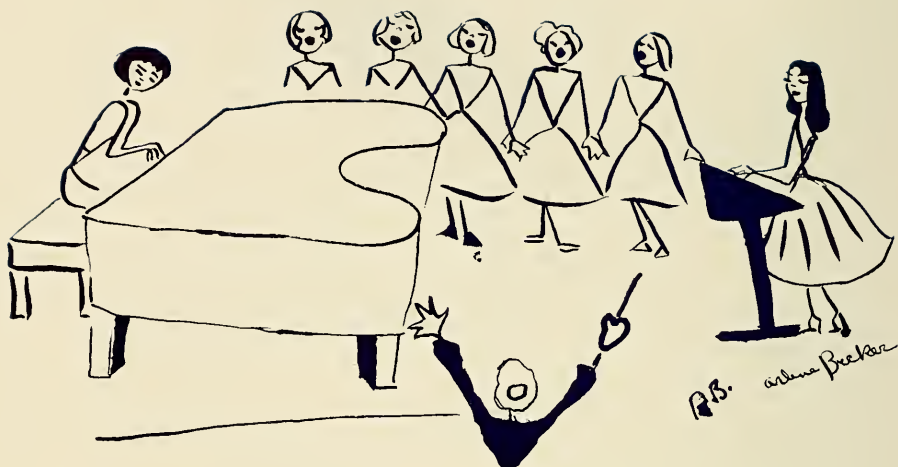
The evening was also enlivened by entertainment from both classes. As the band proved "quicker than the eye," Alan Greenspan from Y.U. mystified the assembly with his prestidigitarian talents. Jerry Wohlberg sang several request numbers and was followed by Debby Birnbaum and Elaine Gottlieb who led the audience in Hebrew song.

After the "show," the boys and girls flocked to the cafeteria to enjoy refreshments. As we sipped coffee and munched cakes, spontaneous groups appeared around the room as boys and girls gathered to sing lively Hebrew songs.

As the last resounding footsteps echoed through the emptying building, the memory of a delightful evening lingered in the minds of all participants.

Charity Drive

A charity drive was conducted at Stern by the Student Council as part of the Yeshiva University Charity Drive. Chairman Elizabeth Katz '59, explained the purpose of the drive to the student body at an assembly and introduced the class representatives. In charge of collecting the \$3.00 from every freshman was Judith Wagner '60. The funds collected were combined with Yeshiva University's money for such charities as P'eylim and Keren Yaldenu.



THE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION
of
Stern College for Women
cordially invites you to attend its
PURIM CHAGIGAH

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1957

8:00 TO 12:00 P.M.

at

STERN COLLEGE
253 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

ORIGINAL PURIM PLAY
REFRESHMENTS

Admission by invitation only

ב"ה



Dorm Party

The third floor of Stern College resounded with talk and laughter on December 30, as the Dormitory girls were giving their annual party attended only by the Dorm residents and their guests.

Because of the smaller crowd, a more intimate atmosphere prevailed as congenial groups formed before the entertainment.

A welcome was extended by Chairman Ruth Solomon, who then introduced the cantata, "The Promised Land," directed by Dr. Kisch-Arndt. Israeli dances performed by eight Stern girls in Israeli blouses and full skirts extended this theme.

The ever-popular cafeteria was once again invaded as the hungry board descended into it for the refreshments, cold cuts and side dishes with hot tea and cookies. As heaping plates were brought to the tables, groups automatically formed. One group sang Hebrew songs, another discussed the entertainment, while a third attended to the food.

Because of the comparatively small crowd, the Dorm Party had a cozy aura which is often missing in other affairs and which was much appreciated.

Freshman Theater Party

A Freshman Theater Party! This novel inspiration marks another "first" for our class of pathbreakers.

At first undecided, finally enthusiastic, we responded by buying not one, but two tickets apiece. The assortment of guests ranged from sisters to friends of both sexes. Also present were chaperones Dr. and Mrs. Isaacs and Rabbi Wohlgelemer.

The play chosen, "The Happiest Millionaire," proved to be the happiest choice. Faced with the problem of selecting a show suitable for young ladies of our caliber, co-chairman Elaine Gottlieb '60, and Tasya Steinhorn '60, chose a light comedy about the fabulous Biddle family.

The star of the play, Walter Pigeon, played a part of "Father knows best," getting his family out of one scrape and into another. The climax came with the near postponement of his daughter's wedding, but he became "a Happy Father-in-law" when she finally threw off all her doubts and family oppositions and ran off with her man.

Everyone seemed to enjoy especially the pertinent problems of teenagers maturing, family strife, wedding plans and strict regulations of the girl's private school.

Tu B'Shvat Party

Dates, raisins, "bukser" and other appropriate fruit provided the refreshments for a party given at Stern in honor of Tu B'Shvat. The student body was invited to meet in the cafeteria during their mutual twenty minute break (12:50-1:10) by the Religious Committee of Stern College, (Ruchamah Fuchs, Leah Trenk, and Raizel Harelick, all of whom are freshmen).

Members of the faculty were not forgotten; plates of fruit were sent to every floor. Throughout the entire building—from the Chemistry lab to the cafeteria—an atmosphere of Tu B'Shvat prevailed.

Purim Chagiga

An original skit by Rachel Rosenberg '58, and Selma Stillman '59, headed the entertainment for the annual Purim Chagiga held on March 10. The skit, entitled "The Queen and Us," was a thinly-disguised version of life at a girls' college. Rebellious against too-strict discipline, the canaries of the play had no hope of overcoming Mt. Mechitza and mingling with the other half of the island until the wily ship owner of the S.S. Birdseed showed them the way. Directed by Rabbi Sol Spiro, the cast of the play performed extremely well; it was much enjoyed by an appreciative audience, who seemed to recognize familiar faces in some of the characters.

Upstairs, on the fourth floor, the tables, decorated with appropriate Purim masks, were covered with luscious refreshments for all.

Chairman of the Chagiga was Bryna Miller '58, and Tasya Steinhorn '60, was co-chairman.



Crown Heights Week-end

Thursday night, March 21, the dorm was like a madhouse! The doors were banging, girls were running in and out of rooms borrowing and trying on clothes. We, the freshmen, sophomore and junior dorm-girls, were preparing for a long-anticipated week-end. For weeks we had been looking forward to spending a week-end in an orthodox Jewish community.

Friday afternoon we assembled in the lobby of the Hotel Duane and took the subway to Crown Heights—our destination. Upon arriving there, we each went to our “home.” Immediately we were made to feel “at home.” Friday night, after our delicious Shabbos meal and Z’miros, we all met at the Young Israel of Eastern Parkway. There we participated in an Oneg Shabbos, which consisted of an interesting speech by Rabbi Kanatopsky and some Hebrew singing.

Saturday morning, we went to Shul at the Crown Heights Yeshiva. There we were welcomed by Rabbi Baumol, who made a wonderful speech about the girls of Stern College. Saturday afternoon, the curious ones, walking from house to house, explored Crown Heights and met the friendly residents. Shabbos night the boys of Crown Heights had a party arranged for us.

We were sorry to leave Sunday morning. It had been an unforgettable, spirited Jewish atmosphere.

Honor System

The Student Council appointed an Honor Committee to investigate the possibilities of an Honor System for Stern. A proposal to inaugurate this system was passed by the faculty. The proposal was then presented to the student body in an assembly. Technical details led to misunderstandings and the proposal did not receive enough of a majority to be officially adopted this year. It is the intention of the Student Council to propose the Honor System again next term and then we hope to clear up all misunderstandings and institute it at Stern.

School Ring

A pale blue stone, the corundum, has been chosen for the school ring. The setting will have on one side the Yeshiva University shield seal and on the other a representation of the Stern College building.

Student Council Elections

Audrey Shapiro, vice-president of the Freshman Class, was elected to the office of secretary of Student Council for the school year of 1957-1958. Other officers are Anne Rosenbaum, president; Eva Osterreicher, vice-president; and Martelle Berenson, treasurer. The vote was held after the student body heard three-minute speeches from all the candidates on May 8.

Elections For Sophomore Class

On May 15, the Freshman Class voted for class officers for their sophomore year, after the candidates for president and vice-president delivered brief speeches. Paula Fogel was re-elected president. Others elected were Tyra Kellner, vice-president, and Rosalyn Miller, secretary-treasurer.

Lag B’omer Affair

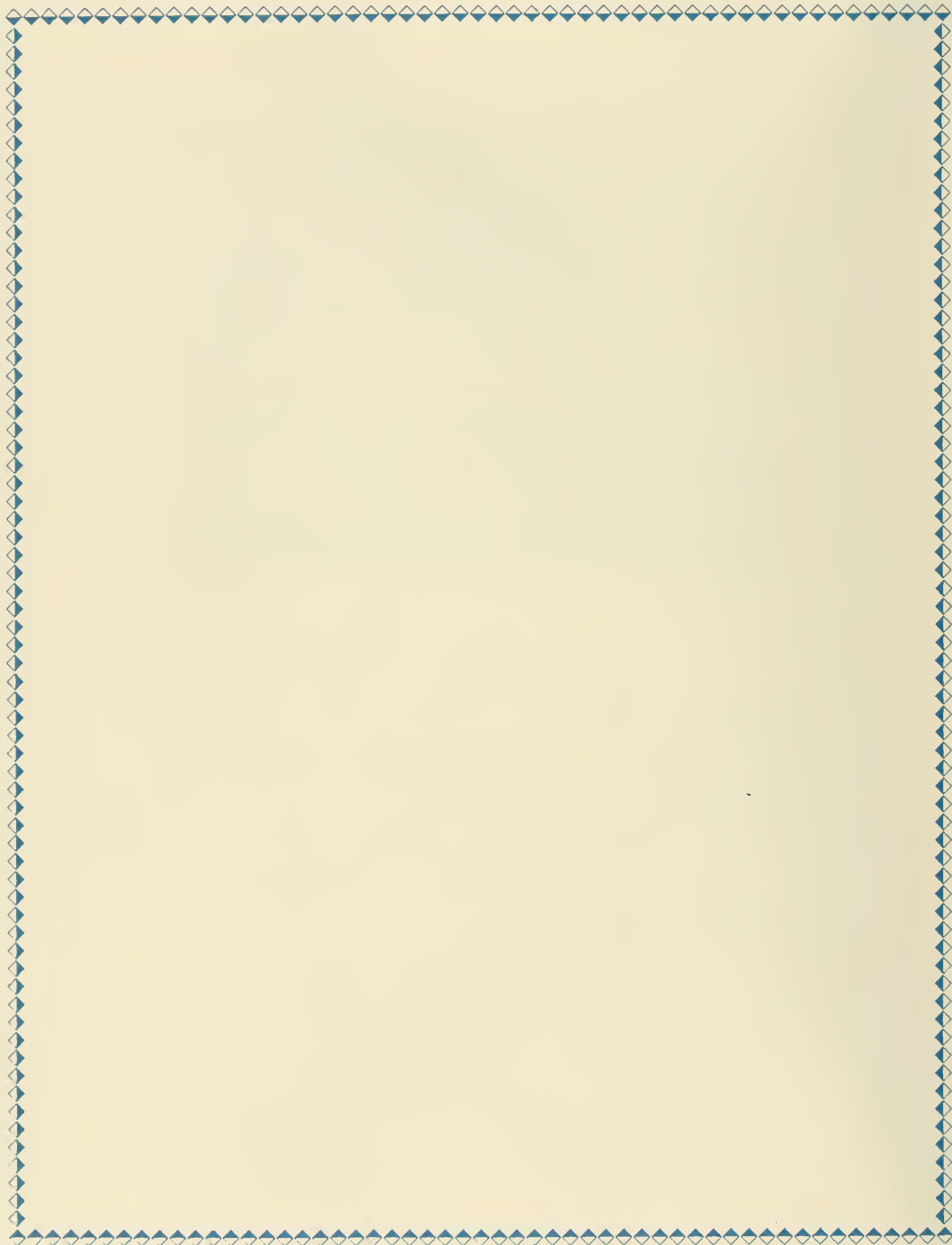
A play, a cantata, an award, and installation of Student Council officers—all were part of our Lag B’Omer celebration.

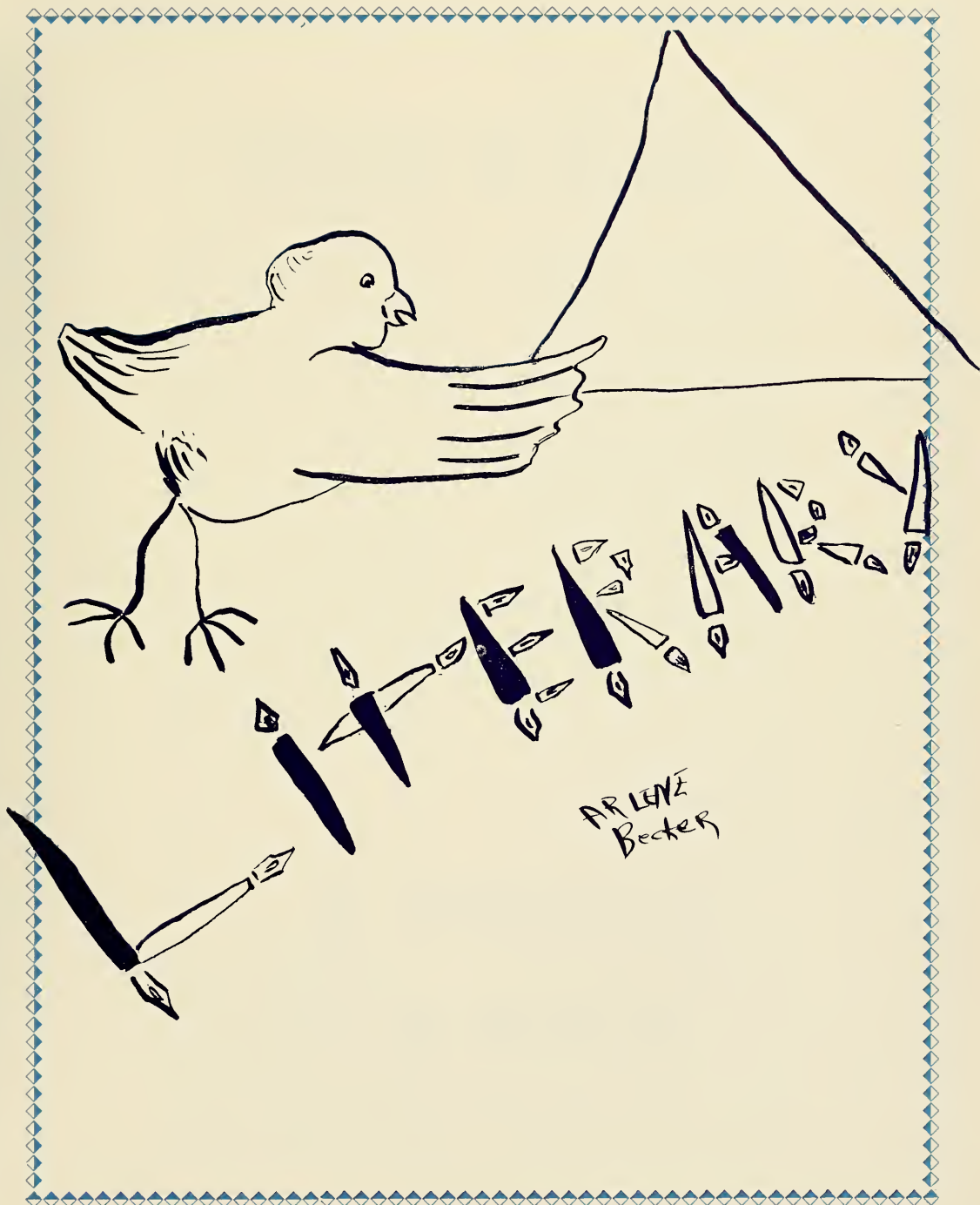
As a change of pace, the Dramatics Club presented a suspense-thriller entitled “The Monkey’s Paw.” The cantata was “The Seven Golden Buttons,” about the Baal Shem Tov.

Mrs. Schachter, a member of our faculty, who was called to the stage ostensibly to retrieve her two little lost girls, was presented with a Student Council award for her efforts on behalf of the Honor System proposals.

Among the new Student Council officers installed at the celebration was our own Audrey Shapiro ’60, the council’s new sec’y-treas.

Since it was an afternoon affair, many of our teachers brought their children. Replete with children, cookies and ices and decorations of butterflies and branches, we all had a very lively Lag B’Omer.





ARLENE
Becker

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

By MARILYN SINGER
Brooklyn

Have you ever found yourself alone? I mean alone, on a dark night on a deserted train platform or on a dark street after midnight. If you have, you may have noticed that the mind can play funny tricks on you.

Evelyn Albert visited her friend, Geraldine, who was quite ill. Evelyn was about to leave . . .

"Well, I have to run, honey, because it's past 12:30 and tomorrow I must go to work." She closed the door and walked down the steps. The night seemed cool for the middle of July, but nevertheless, it was a beautiful night. She felt very much relieved.

"Poor Geraldine," she said to herself as she turned the corner. "Even in this beautiful weather she can't keep the windows open. It's so hot and stuffy in there."

Evelyn walked down the block until she came to the subway. She stopped and fished for her token. She found it, deposited it in the turnstile and started down the steps. Halfway down she suddenly remembered that she had forgotten to buy a newspaper. She went back up and at the top of the stairs she heard her train coming. Quickly she bought her newspaper and ran down the steps, but she missed the train. As she stood there, various thoughts ran through her mind.

"I won't be able to get up tomorrow morning. If I come late again, who knows what will happen." She started to count the stairs to pass the time, but her thoughts returned to her job. "Oh dear, you don't think the boss will fire me, do you? He can't do that to me. After all, I did hear him say that I was indispensable and that I am the best secretary he has ever had. Poor Geraldine is always getting sick. What she needs is a change of climate, because if she doesn't move, the doctor said she won't live long. How can she move? She can't afford it."

Suddenly a chill came over her. She heard the train in the distance coming nearer and nearer. She moved up against the wall of the platform. "I just got the funniest feeling. I feel as if someone is going to sneak up behind me and push me off the platform. Oh well, the only person on the platform is all the way down at the other end. I'm just being silly. Ah, here comes the train." She got on, took a seat, looked around and saw only one other person in the car. She studied him. Her eyes met his. His eyes were glassy. "Oh dear, I hope he isn't drunk. That's all I need. I hope he isn't a dope addict. Oh no!"

She turned away. She could feel his cold, glassy stare. It sent shivers up and down her spine. He got up and slowly walked towards her. She told herself to be calm. He stood right over her now. He stood there for a minute, just staring at her (after all, they had voted her the prettiest girl in the office). She was very frightened, but she didn't utter a sound or blink an eye. She just sat there, waiting, hoping that he would go away. They stared at each other. Then he said:

"Pardon me, ma'am, but is that newspaper yours?" He pointed to the seat with the newspaper on it. Her eyes followed his finger. She told him that it didn't belong to her. He took it and went back to his seat. She heaved a sigh of relief.

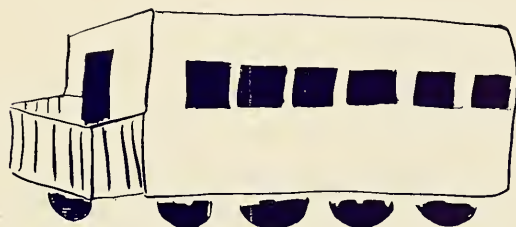
She got off at Stillwell Avenue to change to another train. She walked up the stairs, across and down to another platform. Not one person appeared on the platform. She found herself alone. She became frightened again. "I've got a funny feeling that something is going to happen to me. Evelyn Albert, how silly can you be? Nothing is going to happen to you. I've made this trip too many times for anything to happen. Just

the same, I had better be careful. Oh, it's so deserted, dark and lonely. I'm scared."

Suddenly she heard loud footsteps slowly coming up the ramp. Her heart started to beat faster. She felt it pounding against her ribs. "When is that train going to come? When? Oh, come on train, please hurry." The footsteps grew louder and came closer. She could make out the figure of a tall man with a large frame advancing towards her. Slowly but surely he came closer. Then she saw that it was only a conductor and he just passed by. The train came. How she wished that she had already arrived home. She got on. She only had to go three short stops, but it seemed like an eternity. She got off at the middle of the platform. She started to walk down the platform towards the stairs. There was no one on the platform—at least no one she could see. She walked quickly. Suddenly she saw a man lying on the platform. Dead or drunk—she didn't know. She wanted to scream, but nothing came out. She felt her stomach and her heart turning inside her. She trembled. She had only one thought. RUN! She tried her best to run, but she froze. Then she

ran. Scared stiff and pale as a ghost, she flew down the stairs and out of the station. Luckily, a bus was there and she made it just in time. When she got off the bus, she started walking. She still trembled and kept glancing behind her. She thought she heard footsteps. She quickened her pace. Those footsteps seemed to go faster also. However, when she looked back, she saw nothing. She turned the corner and started to run. Faster, faster, she kept telling herself. She finally came to her house. She searched for her key, fumbled, and dropped it. She found it hard to see through the tears, but finally retrieved the key. She quickly opened the door, went inside and slammed the door shut. She put her arm against the door and her head on her arm. Between her laughing, crying and sighing, she managed to say:

"There, Evelyn Albert, wasn't it all silly? You're home now, safe and sound. Nothing bad really happened. Now, calm yourself and go upstairs and take a hot shower. You're trembling like a leaf." As she turned around, she found herself staring into the barrel of a revolver.



Miss Arlene's Recipe Column

By ARLENE BECKER
Milwaukee, Wisc.



How to Make a Date

- 1 lovely Stern maiden
- 1 pound of luck
- 1 pound of pluck
- 1 bucket of mathematical skill
- 1 good-natured dad
- 2 horsepower of hydraulic pressure
- 1 Cadillac convertible
- 2 "My Fair Lady" tickets

With the horsepower, extract two "My Fair Lady" tickets and one use of the Cadillac for the evening. Then put the bucket of mathematical skill at the disposal of the maiden to be used by her as the occasion requires. Take the remainder of luck in one hand and pluck in the other and present yourself at the Duane Mezzanine one evening. Spill the pluck in all directions. Splash it about vigorously and while she is dazzled by your performance, ask her to go with you on the specified evening. If she hesitates, plunge your hands into your pockets, whistle a tune and swagger away in the direction of her best girlfriend. Re-apply later and be rewarded with success.

Pinned On My First Date

By ROBERTA REISS
New Rochelle, N. Y.

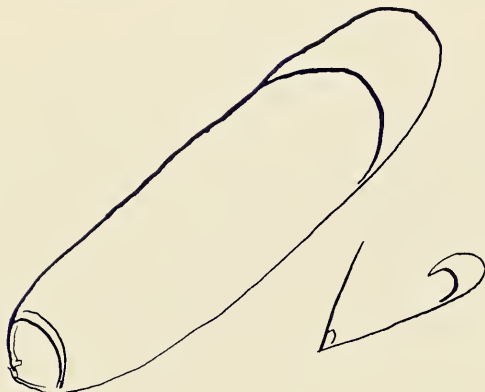
His parents and mine were friends for many years, and they often discussed our first date long before it happened. We lived in the same apartment house. Neighbors, too, seemed to have a curious interest in the happenings of the day. It would be safe to say that almost everyone in the building was concerned with my debut.

It was one of those beautiful spring days that nature brings forth to blot out the memory of the long, bleak winter. Birds were nesting. Barren trees and early vines virtually pushed out delicate green buds to greet the warm sun. Romance filled the air. This was the setting for my first date.

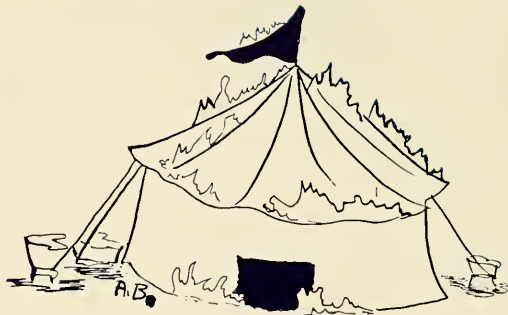
The importance of the occasion created an aura of excitement in our household. Mother seemed especially happy. She helped with my bath and dusted powder in just the right places. My dress and accessories matched perfectly, and to complete the ensemble, I wore some very effective pins. First impressions are so lasting. Mama was anxious that I look just right, and judging from the com-

ments as we left the building, I knew that this had been accomplished.

He was already there. It was obvious that much attention had been given to his clothes and appearance. He was a picture of elegance. Then our chaperones brought us together as though to effect an introduction. We were then left alone — awkwardly staring at each other. After some very trying, speechless moments, a conversation followed that is hardly worth recording. Anyone overhearing us would have labeled it pure nonsense. Frankly, the details of what followed next are not clear, but I do know that I was rapidly losing interest in my new friend. Perhaps it was the vast difference in our ages—he was three times as old as I. My young man was most persistent and did not give up easily. He smiled coyly and tried a new line of chatter to hold my attention. But it was all in vain. I yawned delicately and fell fast asleep in my new beribboned carriage—forgiveable conduct for a lass just three weeks old on her first day out.



An alarming first-person experience



TERROR! TERROR!

By ROZ BERKOWITZ
Hartford, Conn.

I shall never forget that day as long as I live! It was July 6, 1944. The sun was shining brightly, reflecting the glee of anticipation within me. I was going to the circus. It was not to be an ordinary, small-town affair that one sees in pictures, but one with a big top, hundreds of huge animals and large grandstands. I, a youngster of six years, accompanied by my mother, was on my way to see the celebrated Barnum and Bailey Circus.

I recall my thoughts as we entered the huge tent. How anxious I was to see that circus! Later would come the joy of relating the episode to my friends. Little did I know of the crisis soon to occur.

Today, my recollections of the elaborate opening of the event are hazy. However, from the conclusion of the trapeze artist's act to the termination of that never-to-be-forgotten day, my memories are extremely vivid.

Entranced in the glamorous world of circus life, my thoughts were shifted to reality by a tremendous flash of light followed by a loud crackling of fire. And then the nightmare began! Yes, this was the shocking Circus Fire of '44 about which many people, tucked securely in their homes, read. Although they felt that they knew of the horror which accompanied the injuries and loss of life, only the figures in this real drama of human slaughter could possibly conceive the pain and horror, anxiety and despair which accompanied this tragedy.

Terror! Terror! Terror! People throwing children into waiting arms, chairs tumbling down through the grandstands, shouts, screams, cries, animals prancing madly in their cages, people racing, falling, pulling, pushing, dragging, crawling, crying — these things drew me further into my world of fright as I groped toward safety, half running and stumbling, the rush and roar of the

fire following close behind. I made it!

Out in the panic-stricken crowd, away from the danger of death, my fears began to mount. Where was my mother? I can only remember running frantically about searching for the person whose presence meant so much to me. Nowhere in the tumult could I find her. It seemed as though there were thousands of people included in this turmoil of fire-engines and ambulances filled with injured people. At this point the effects of shock seized me and I lost consciousness.

I was taken by two strangers to a drugstore. They found my phone number in my wallet and phoned my father. I presume that he came to the designated meeting place immediately, for my next fleeting recollection is that of my father and I searching desperately for my

mother. Finally she was found, badly hurt, and was rushed to the hospital. Although she had been suffering from third degree burns, she had continued her quest for me.

Her survival was a greater miracle than mine. After telling me exactly how to reach safety, she had been caught in the grandstands between falling chairs. However, she managed to escape just as the tent collapsed. It was not the actual flames that had scalded her, but the heat of the fire.

After many weeks of hospitalization, and many more months of slow convalescence, my mother gradually recovered.

My own recovery was not complete until months later. In the interminable darkness of my dreams, even now, I often awake afraid, fearful, horrified, crying: "The terror! The terror!"

THE CREATION

By MIRIAM SAFRAN

Israel

It was spring in the air. It was spring in my heart.

The sun was shining brightly in the sky and scattered its golden rays all over the earth, stroking gently every flower, every plant, every bird and every living creature. Quietness, calmness and mildness ruled the area.

The sun was shining in my heart, filling me with a happiness never known to me before and lifting my soul to new heights. It gave me the feeling of floating on clouds.

The fascinating sound of a stream running nearby, the charming chant of a bird, the sound of a light breeze cutting through the leaves, the echo of a faraway sound of working farmers—all turned into one harmonious and wonderful melody that touched the inner chords of my heart and made it join the choir of a whole world chanting a mystical melody to its Creator. That very moment it seemed to me that I was attending the Creation of a new world, a purified world unknown to me before, a world over which peace and calmness rule.

Suddenly a terrifying noise cut through the quietness. The sun disappeared and everything crashed and turned upside down. The terrible noise cut into me like hot iron and I felt as if I were falling down quickly from a tremendous height until I knocked against something hard . . .

I opened my eyes just in time to send a quick, bewildered look toward the open window and to see a huge airplane pass by with a terrifying noise that brought me down from the paradise of peace I had so thoroughly enjoyed; it took me away from that paradise of peace to bring me into a world where monsters of iron rule.

CAIN'S CHOICE

By MIRIAM RESNIKOFF
Brooklyn, N. Y.

In his book, *East of Eden*, John Steinbeck wrestles with the theme of Good versus Evil, and man's power to choose between the two.

The book is almost a parable of the story of Cain and Abel analyzed through modern psychology. Steinbeck sees this story as the history of all mankind. It starts with a feeling of rejection and subsequent deep-seated resentment and jealousy. These emotions are expressed in mean actions, which in turn cause guilt feelings. These aggravate the unhappiness, and the cycle continues and grows. Each man is a potential Cain. Yet man is given the choice of controlling this cycle and becoming master over Evil. Steinbeck derives this philosophy from G-d's choice of the word "timshel" which He says to Cain after He has accepted Abel's offering and rejected his—"thou mayest rule" over evil. If Cain mends his way, his offering, too, will be accepted in the future.

Steinbeck develops this philosophy through the history of three generations of the Trask family, from a small farm in Connecticut to the sunny Salinas Valley, from the Civil War to World War I.

Cyrus Trask's two sons, Charles and Adam, are the first set of Cains and Abels. The father favors the latter; the mongrel dog Adam offers him for his

birthday becomes his favorite pet, while the expensive pocket knife Charles gives him is put aside and never touched. Adam develops into a gentle, moral boy, while his brother is dark and moody. Once, in a jealous rage, he beats Adam and even attempts to kill him with an ax. It is significant that Charles carries a vivid scar on his forehead comparable to the sign that G-d left on Cain's forehead after the murder of his brother.

Another person who bears the scar of evil on the forehead is Cathy Trask, Adam's pretty wife. She is born with no heart, no feelings, no conscience. Her career consists of arson, patricide and matricide (when she is barely sixteen). She is a complete "monster", as Steinbeck calls her.

From these two people—Adam and Cathy Trask — twin sons are born. Aron is gold-haired, open-faced, innocent and completely good; Cal is dark and secretive. Everyone likes the affectionate Aron immediately, but Cal seems to build a wall around himself. The story of these two boys, their offerings to their father and his rejection of Cal's, and Cal's subsequent symbolic murder of his brother—all this brings the development of Steinbeck's ideas to its climax. The brothers prove that it is within man's power to be a Cain or an Abel. The cycle *can* be stopped. The decision is left to man himself.

הקמת אפשרות לבטול המלחמות בין העמים?

אביבה טאובה

תקופה זו נקראה תקופת „השלום המזויף“. מדינאי אותן הארצות לא הרגישו, או לא רצו להרגיש, כי סתירה עמוקה ישנה בין המלה „מזויף“ ו„שלום“. ע"י הודינות כל אומת ישראל אורה מלחמתית ועילה קטנה שבקטנות יכלה להבכיר את אש המלחמה. לא יפלא איפוא כי דוקא לאחר „השלום המזויף“ פרצה מלחמת העולם הראשונה. מלחמה זו יכולה היתה שלא לפרץ אלא המתיחות הרבה סופה להפסק.

ראינו איפא כי לקשר יחסי שלום בין העמים אינו דבר קל. אחת הסיבות העיקריות הגורמות למלחמה נעוצה בקנאות. הקנאה — זו המארה אשר כבר מתחלת הבריאה נתגלתה במעשי הנחש, לא במי הרה יכולה להעקר. רובצת היא בתוך תוכו של האדם — כלב כל מדינה. אף אם תכרונה מדינות על יחסי שלום ביניהן, ספק הוא אם הכרותן תתגשם, כי בעלות אומה במצבה הכלכלי, הגאוגרפי, או בכל מצב דומה, על אומה שניה הרי שוב רגש הקנאה יתגבר במדינה הקטנה והענייה ביחס לשניה. וזו האחרונה תחפש לה צילות שונות להתנגדות במדינה העשירה.

כדי לבטל מלחמה וכדי לקשר יחסי שלום בין העמים עלינו לעקור את הקנאה מתוכנו. בכדי להשליט שלום בעולם אין צורך בחודינות, בדברי הסיסמה הרומית, הובנה להרס את כל מבשירי ההבלה והי השחתה. רק לאחר שלא יהיו עוד אמצעי מלחמה לא תפרץ מלחמה. אך האם נתן הדבר לביצוע? ישעיה הנביא התנבא, כי באחרית הימים: „וכתתו הכחות לאיתים וחנותיהם למזמרות“ או — ורק אז „לא ישא נזי אל נזי הרב ולא ילמדו עוד מלחמה“ (ישעיה ב).

„אם רצונך בשלום הבון למלחמה“ סיסי מה זו אינה מליצה גרידא, נובעת היא כתוצאה ממאורעות שהלפו עברו ואשר הוכיחו כי אכן לא יתכן השלום מבלי להודיין. דוגמאות לאין ספור בהסטוריה הכללית מוכיחות כי צדקו הרומיים כאמרם „אם רצונך בשלום הבון למלחמה“. אחת מאותן הדוגמאות, היא התקופה בין השנים 1821–1821. בשנים אלו נתבססו עיירות מדינות להוויין על בטול המלחמה אשר עקבותיה לא נמחו עדיין. אנכ דבר רים נאים התנהלו באותן ארצות גופן ויון קהתתני. מדינאי כל הארצות לא פסקו מלחכרין כי אך לשלום פניהם מועדות. הוקמה ועידה אשר מתפקידה היה לדון על האפשרויות בהמעטת הוויין והקמת בית דין בין לאומי. תנועות למען השלום קמו בכל רחבי אירופה, סופרים רבים, ביניהם טולסטוי הקדישו את מאמרניהם ל„מלחמה במלחמה“. דעת הקהל היתה, כי עלבון הוא לאדם לשפך דמים כאשר נברא האדם בצלם אלוקים. דעה אחידה שררה אז באירופה; התפרצות מלחמה היא בלתי אפשרית, הואיל ומלחמה היא שם נרדף לפראות וגסות — לברבריות, ולהן הן לא נותר עוד מקום באירופה, בין העמים הנאורים. יהד עם הרמת המדינות על ניסן את מאוייהם ושאיותיהם לשלום, הודינו במרין. בכל הארצות גויסו מילוני חילים ולשם מטרות מלחמתיות נוצלו כל קניני המדע, אך ראשי המדינות לא חדלו להבטיח כי הם רודפי שלום, ובאשר להודינות ארצותיהם, הודיניו השם במ העקרב כי הוויין משמש להם „רק תרים בפני המלחמה“.

הודעתם זו מוכיחה כי תקופתם היתה רחוקה מלהיות תקופת שלום. כנראה אף הוא מורה כי „שלום שלום — ואין שלום“

המדינה העברית

רחל וילנר

היא ארצנו „ארץ אשר ה' אלוך דורש אותה תמיד יעניי ה' אלךך בה מראשית השנה ועד אחרית שנה" (דברים ו"א). אין בכוחן של האו"ם, לשלול את זכויותינו להחזיק ולהשתרש במדינת ישראל. כבר בימי אברהם אבינו הכטיה הקב"ה לתת לנו את א"י. רואים אנו כיצד המניג היג הגדול משה רבינו ע"ה, נכסף לעלות לארץ „אעברה נא ואראה את הארץ הטובה" (דברים ג'). כל מקום בא"י מזכיר לנו את ההיסטוריה אשר היא חלק בלתי נפרד מהווי העם.

עלינו לעודד את ההתישבות בארץ, להתגבר על הצרות גם אם יעצמו מאד, כי בסופו של דבר, בעזרת ה', ננצח את שונאינו. והמשילו חכמי ישראל את גאון לת ישראל ל„עלית השחר" ול„זריחת השמש". בעלות השחר עדיין השיך הכל מסביב אך לאט לאט מנצנצת וזורחת השמש בכל הדרה. כך היא גאולתן של ישראל, בתהלה קימעה קימעה ואהרי כן בהמון רב.

ומקום אנו שתתקיים נבואת חזונו „ושבו בנים לגבולם", יעם ישראל יראה בנחמת ציון ובקוממיות המדינה השלמה כרוח המסורת.

אהרי מלחמת העולם השנייה, היהודים בקשו מאנגליה רשות לתת לפלסטים להכנס לא"י. אנגליה ששלטה אז בארץ סירבה להענות לבקשתם. גם קרה והאו"ם קבל את הצעת היהודים להפוך את א"י למדינה יהודית עצמאית. כתוצאה, נפנעה אנגליה מהחלטת האו"ם והסיתה את הערבים נגד היהודים ואף תמכה בהם בצידוד צבאי.

בשנת תש"ה נצחו היהודים במלחמתם נגד הערבים. נוצחו ונפלו „הרבים כיון המוקטים" במלחמת התשמונאים לפנים. העולם השתומם ולא יכול להבין כיצד שש מאות אלף איש הצליחו לנצח מיליוני ערבים. בניישראל אשר שמו מכתחם בה' לא נסגו אהור. היה זה נצחון היסטורי ונס כעליל לעיני כל.

עדיין ישנם שונאים רבים למדינת העברית, המצטערים על הקמת המדינה, ככתוב: „אז נבהלו אלוףי אדום אילי מואב ואחזמו רעד" (שמות ט"ו). לא שמעוהם הם מהיהודים, אלא מצטערים על כבוד ישראל. השונאים מהרימים את בניישראל וגורמים להם נזק רב בנפש וברכוש. למרות כל הצרות, העם כנוי דינה מחזיק מעמד. יודעים אנו שרק א"י

התורה שבעל פה

קייצע קארב

יהיה בימם ההם" (דברים י"ז). ועוד ראיה, "יפתח בדורו כשמואל בדורו". יפתח, אחד מן השופטים הפשוטים, נחשב כשופט החשוב שמואל בדורו.

"כי על פי הדברים האלה כרתי אתך ברית זאת ישראל" (שמות ל"ד). פרוש הדבר הוא, כי בעבור התורה שבע"פ כרת ה' ברית עם ישראל (גיטין ס') את התורה שבכתב מקימים עוד היום אנשים רבים אך אנו יודעים שרבים פשוט ומפרשים אותה כרצונם. הצדוקים, הקראים הרי פורמים ועוד, אומרים כי הם שומרים את התורה שבכתב אך אינם מקבלים את התורה שבע"פ. כתוצאה הם מסבירים את התורה שבכתב באופן אחר. רק אנו, הדתיים, שומרים על התורה שבע"פ כלה אוצר יקר ובזכותה לא שוכח ה' אותנו. אף אם לעיתים מעניש הקב"ה את עמו האהוב, כלה לא עושה בהם וכל העומד לבלותינו בסופו, הוא נשמד, כי עם ה' "זרע קדש מצבתה" (ישעיה ו').

התורה שבע"פ נמסרה מדור לדור, "מישה קבל תורה מסינו ומסרה ליהושע ויהושע לזקנים..." (מסכת אבות א'). רק לאחר שגלינו מארצנו ונתרחקנו מעל אדמתנו, הרגישו החכמים כסכנה האורכת לדת כתוצאה מכחול הסנהדרין וכן פוזר ישראל בין האומות. לכן, מישום שעת הדחק, נכתבה התורה שבע"פ ככתוב "עת לעשות לה' הפרו תורתך" (גיטין ס) בתלמוד, במשנה ובגמרא, נכללים התורה שבע"פ ומצוות דרבנן. יש תלמוד ירושלמי ותלמוד בבלי. התלמוד הירושלמי נשלם כמאה שנה לפני התלמוד הבבלי אבל אינו מושלם כמחציתו. לכן, אנו משימשים היום בתלמוד הבבלי, אשר תכילתו להאיר לנו את הדרך הנכונה להדבק בקב"ה ובמדותיו.

בתקופתנו היום, כמו בתקופתם של רבותינו, יוחנן ושמואל ז"ל, לפני אלף וחמש מאות שנה, ישנם אנשים רבים המפקקים באמיתות התורה שבעל פה. בימים ההם המינים והאפיקורסים בקרו את ההלכות שבתורה שבע"פ ולענו לא נשים שהמשיכו באמונתם החזקה. כתוצאה, האמוראים רבותינו יוחנן ושמואל ז"ל, תקנו את הברכה, "לעסוק בדברי תורה", שצריכים לאמרה בכל יום בשחרית וכתבוהו לפני הברכה בה מודים אנו לה' על נתינת התורה ("אשר בהר בני"). הם תקנו תקנה זו מפני שכרכה זו מדגישה ביהדות את התורה שבע"פ, כי לעסוק בדברי תורה, פרוש הדבר הוא לעסוק בתורה שבע"פ. (מתוך, "עולם התפילה" של מונק).

למה נתן לנו ה' שתי תורות — את התורה שבכתב ואת התורה שבע"פ? מדוע אסרו חז"ל את כתיבת התורה שבע"פ עד אחר זמן הבית השני? לשאלות ההשבויות האלו יש כמה תשובות. חז"ל מצאו רמז לאסור כתיבת התורה שבע"פ בפסוק: "כתוב לך את הדברים האלה" (שמות ל"ד) ואת אומרת, "אלה — אתה כותב, ואי אתה כותב הלכות" (ר' ישמעאל). לא רצו שהתורה שבע"פ תיכתב כדי לא להגבילה. בני ישראל נצטוו לשמור את כל מצוות התורה ומסורת חכמי כל דור ונכללו בצווי הזה כל המצוות העתידות להתחדש. עלינו לשמוע לדברי חכמי הדור אפילו אם דבריהם אינם נראים נכונים בעינינו ככתיב, "לא תסור מן הדבר אשר יגידו לך ימין ושמואל" (דברים י"ז). אפילו אם חכמי דור אחד אינם עולים בגדולה ובחכמה על החכמים שקדמו להם, צריכים לנהוג בהתאם להדרתם ככתוב: "ובאת אל השופט אשר





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We would like to express our gratitude to the Administration, the student body, and especially to our faculty advisers: Dr. Menachem Mendel Brayer, Dr. Morris Epstein, Rabbi Howard Levine, and Mrs. Elizabeth Isaacs for their cooperative assistance in the production of this yearbook.

